

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00074 140813Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014677 140822Z /13

R 140700Z JAN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0074

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, IZ
SUBJECT: SOVIET AIRLIFT AND IRAQI AID TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 4155 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 1770 (NOTAL)

1. THERE ARE WIDE VARIETY OF REASONS WHY SOVIET AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE MONITORED IN IRAQI AIRSPACE, INCLUDING SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO IRAQ. WE UNSURE WHETHER REF A MEANS THAT SOVIETS STILL UTILIZING IRAQI AIRSPACE AND LANDING PRIVILEGES FOR FLIGHTS TO ADEN WITH ADDIS ABABA AS ULTIMATE DISTINATION. THIS WOULD BE SURPRISING FOR SEVERAL REASONS AND, IF TRUE, BAGHDAD REGIME IS SETTING A NEW STANDARD OF CYNICISM.

2. HAVE ALSO SEEN WASHTINGTON POST STORY DATELINE JANUARY 6 WHICH REPORTS ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAYING "THAT SINCE LATE LAST MONTH NO SOVIET CARGO PLANES HAVE BEEN SEEN FLYING INTO ADDIS ABABA OR ADEN, THE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN YEMEN, WHICH HAD SERVED AS A WAY STATION FOR THE SHIPMENTS." PLEASE CONFIRM IF THIS IS TRUE.

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3. HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION OF SIAD BARRE COMPARED WITH LOW LEVEL RECEPTION OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TENDED SUPPORT REPORTS THAT ETHIOPIANS RECEIVED POLITE HEARING BUT, ULTIMATELY, A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM IRAQIS. BOTH SOMALIS AND ERITREANS HAVE TOLD DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES THAT IRAQ IS STILL GIVING THEM FULL SUPPORT.

IRAQI MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT NEWS FROM BOTH FRONTS
WITH FAVORABLE DESCRIPTIONS OF ERITREAN AND SOMALI
"LIBERATORS" CONTRASTED WITH HARSH TREATMENT OF
ETHIOPIAN "OCCUPIERS."

4. THERE IS, HOWEVER, REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IRAQ
REDUCED GREATLY OR EVEN HALTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO SOMALIEA AFTER SOMALIA CANCELLED ITS FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION TREATY WITH SOVIETS. DESPITE CONTINUED
POLITICAL SUPPORT OF CLAIM TO OGADEN AS SOMALI
TERRITORY, LOCAL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THERE ARE
SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND
MOGADISCIO.
PECK

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NNN

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